

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 52  
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to continue the special joint committee created by Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 447 and 462 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly to study the extension of the emergency telephone service (9-1-1) charge to all telephone service users, including wireless technologies, and to study other issues relative to cellular telephones in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, recognizing that the use of cellular telephones and other wireless telecommunications technologies by Tennesseans continues to escalate at an astounding rate, the 99th General Assembly enacted Senate Joint Resolution No. 462, which created a special joint committee to study issues relative to cellular telephones in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, finding that access to emergency 9-1-1 service is important to the life, safety and well-being of all Tennesseans, the 99th General Assembly enacted Senate Joint Resolution No. 462, which created a special joint committee to study the extension of the emergency telephone service (9-1-1) charge to all telephone service users, including wireless technologies; and

WHEREAS, the missions of the two (2) studies were subsequently combined to create one (1) special joint committee charged with the responsibility of studying both issues; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee met October 17, 1996 and heard testimony from Dr. Austin Lyons, Chief of the Telecommunications Division of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. Dr. Lyons briefed the committee on the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act. The

**\*03975445\***

03975445

**\*002866\***

\*00286616\*

committee also heard testimony on Emergency 9-1-1 issues from Dr. Harry Green, Executive Director of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations; and

WHEREAS, the special joint committee held its second meeting on November 15, 1996. The committee heard testimony from the staff of the Office of Legal Services concerning the several states' jurisdiction to regulate cellular and other wireless telecommunications service pursuant to federal law and other states' legislative initiatives to impose an emergency telephone service charge upon cellular and other wireless telecommunications service; and

WHEREAS, at the November 15, 1996 meeting, the committee also heard testimony from Mr. James D. Petersen, attorney for the Tennessee Emergency Number Association and Mr. John Mitchell, a technical consultant for the Shelby County 911 District; and

WHEREAS, although the special joint committee has worked assiduously to address the many problems associated with wireless phone technologies and the possible extension of the 9-1-1 charge to cellular and other wireless telecommunications service users, there is more work to be done; and

WHEREAS, because these issues concerning cellular and other wireless telecommunications service directly affect commercial and business activity in this state, as well as the safety and welfare of many Tennesseans, it is imperative that the mandate of the special joint committee be continued; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the special joint committee created by Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 447 and 462 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly to study the extension of the emergency telephone service charge (9-1-1) to all telephone service users, including wireless technologies, and to study other issues relative to cellular telephones in Tennessee is hereby continued for a period of one (1) year .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the membership of the special joint committee shall remain as constituted; provided, that legislative members shall be duly elected members of the General Assembly in order to remain members of such committee. Vacancies on the committee shall be filled in accordance with the original appointing authority pursuant to Senate Joint Resolutions Nos. 447 and 462 of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies, including the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury and the Tennessee Regulatory Authority shall provide staff assistance to the special joint committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than March 1, 1998, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.